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Q. TULLY

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# Lively Doings in the CIA

CIA: THE INSIDE STORY.  
By Andrew Tully. Morrow.  
\$4.50. Nonfiction.

Tully's account of the Central Intelligence Agency's role on many Cold War fronts is advertised as presenting "the facts about our government's most secret organization." But those looking for a detailed examination of CIA from the inside, or for lengthy discussion of the philosophical basis for its existence, will not find them here.

The book's value lies chiefly in its survey of CIA's history and operation, its brief resumes of the principal Cold War crises, and its lively telling of some of the best international spy stories of our time.

And it is given to where it is. In the case of Japan and China, the Abilene, the

exposure of Khrushchev's anti-Stalin harangue in 1956. Criticism is meted out where deserved—in Iraq, Iran, Suez, Laos, Formosa and, of course, Cuba. Where U.S. policy makers turned a deaf ear to CIA information, as in Korea, they get a shellacking, too.

The trouble with most of these recitations is that they add little to existing public knowledge. Those that might add something—such as CIA's early selection of Joseph Mobutu as the man to save the Congo—need more documentation than the author supplies to ring true.

Mr. Tully rightly supports the view that a nation must learn what its enemies are doing by spying on them—a basic immorality made necessary by the harsh requirements of Cold War survival. He puts his finger on the correct source of CIA's past troubles: its role as a policy

maker instead of a gatherer of information.

It is unfortunate that factual errors mar the book.

These include the linking of the Schroder banking firms of New York to German banker Kurt von Schroeder, an early Hitler backer; the statement that a Geneva conference last year decided on Souvanna Phouma as the next premier of Laos, when in fact this was determined by Laos' three royal princes, Souvanna among them; and the British ambassador in Baghdad at the time of the 1958 revolution is described as Sir Michael White, when in reality the man's name was Wright.

Though small, such errors are worth noting because the reader's credibility in Mr. Tully's narrative as a whole is thereby materially damaged.

JOHN H. TRATTNER